

CLAIMS

1. A method on a device for tracking at least one item, the method comprising:
 - determining a location of the device;
 - 5 determining whether the location of the device is within a predefined area;
 - determining whether the at least one item is within a predetermined range; and
 - if the at least one item is not within the predetermined range and if the location of the device is not within the predefined area, storing the location of the device.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein each of the at least one items is associated with a physical object.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the device is any one of a mobile telephone, a mobile pager, wireless messaging device, and a mobile communication system.
- 15 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - if the device is operating in active mode, performing a notification indicating that the at least one item is not within the range.
- 20 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - determining whether the current time is within a predefined time period;
 - if the current time is not within the predefined time period, sounding an alarm indicating that the at least one item is not within the range.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the device communicates with the at least one item using any one of:

- the IEEE 802.15.4 communications standard;
- the IEEE 802.11(b) communications standard; and
- 5 the Bluetooth communications standard.

7. A method on a device for tracking at least one item, the method comprising:

- determining a location of the device;
- detecting that the at least one item has come within a range;
- 10 determining that the device is moving; and
- determining that the at least one item is moving within the range of the device.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

- determining whether the at least one item has moved within the range of the device for a predefined period of time; and
- 15 if the at least one item has moved within the range of the device for the predefined period of time, setting a variable indicating that the at least one item is associated to the device.

9. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

determining whether the at least one item has moved within the range of the device for a predefined distance; and

if the at least one item has moved within the range of the device for the
5 predefined distance, setting a variable indicating that the at least one item is attached
to the device.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein each of the at least one item is associated with
a physical object.

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11. The method of claim 10, wherein the device is any one of a mobile telephone,
a mobile pager and a mobile communication system.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein the device communicates with the at least one
15 item using any one of:

the IEEE 802.15.4 communications standard;
the IEEE 802.11(b) communications standard; and
the Bluetooth communications standard.

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13. A device for tracking at least one item, comprising:
 - a location module for determining a location of at least one device;
 - a receiver for receiving signals from the at least one item;
 - location information for a predefined area;
- 5 a processor for determining whether the location of the at least one device is within the predefined area and determining whether the at least one item is within a range; and
- 10 a storage module for storing the location of the device if the at least one item is not within the range and if the location of the device is not within the predefined area.

- 14 The device of claim 13, wherein the device is any one of a mobile telephone, a mobile pager and a mobile communication system.

- 15 15. The device of claim 13, further comprising:
 - an alarm for indicating that the at least one item is not within the range, if the device is operating in active mode.

16. The device of claim 14, wherein the device communicates with the at least one item using any one of:
 - the IEEE 802.15.4 communications standard;
 - the IEEE 802.11(b) communications standard; and
 - the Bluetooth communications standard.
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17. A system for tracking items, comprising:

at least one item, each item including:

a unique identifier;

a transmitter for transmitting the unique identifier; and

5 a coupling element for coupling the item to an object; and

a device including:

a location module for determining a location of the device;

a receiver for receiving signals from the at least one item;

location information for a predefined area;

10 a processor for determining whether the location of the device is within the predefined area and determining whether the at least one item is within a range; and

15 a storage module for storing the location of the device if the at least one item is not within the range and if the location of the device is not within the predefined area.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the device is any one of a mobile telephone, a mobile pager, a messaging device, and a mobile communication system.

20 19. The system of claim 17, the device further comprising:

an alarm for indicating that the at least one item is not within the range, if the device is operating in active mode.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein the device communicates with the at least one item using any one of:

- the IEEE 802.15.4 communications standard;
- the IEEE 802.11(b) communications standard; and
- 5 the Bluetooth communications standard.

21. A system for tracking items, comprising:

at least one item, each item including:

- a unique identifier;
- 10 a transmitter for transmitting the unique identifier; and
- a coupling element for coupling the item to an object; and

at least one device, each device including:

- a location module for determining a location of the device;
- a receiver for receiving signals from the at least one item;
- 15 location information for a predefined area;
- a processor for determining whether the location of the device is within the predefined area and determining whether the at least one item is within a range; and
- a storage module for storing the location of the device if the at least one item is not within the range and if the location of the device is not within the predefined area.
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22. The system of claim 21, wherein the at least one device is any one of a mobile telephone, a mobile pager, a messaging device, and a mobile communication system.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein each of the at least one device further comprises:

an alarm for indicating that the at least one item is not within the range, if the
5 device is operating in active mode.

24. The system of claim 21, wherein the processor of each of the at least one device, in response to a user request, further retrieves location information from the storage module, so as to find the last stored location of the at least one item.